

From: CN=Valentina Cabrera-Stagno/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US

Subject: delta EFT

www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/erp/sacriverecoflows.asp

Wednesday, January 30, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

East Meeting Room

828 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Delta Ecological Flows Tool Workshop Invitee,

In March 2008 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) completed the Sacramento River Ecological Flows Study (www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/erp/sacriverecoflows.asp). A major component of the study was the development of the Sacramento River Ecological Flows Tool (SacEFT). SacEFT is structured as an “ecological plug-in” to existing models that are commonly used for water planning in the Central Valley.

Building on the success of this project, TNC has completed the Delta extension of this decision analysis tool to create the Delta Ecological Flows Tool (DeltaEFT). Construction of the DeltaEFT builds on the substantial past investments in both SacEFT and scientific research in the Delta. Studies funded by the CALFED ERP programs, beginning in the mid 1990s, have resulted in better understanding of the relationships between inflows, water exports, water quality, and at risk fish populations (e.g., Delta Regional Ecosystem Implementation Plan conceptual models, field and modeling studies of Delta smelt, longfin smelt, salmonids and other pelagic organisms). Developments such as the Wanger Decision, the expectation of alternate conveyance strategies for the Delta resulting from the Delta Vision and Bay Delta Conservation Plan efforts, and climate change effects all highlight the need for a more robust means to scientifically evaluate the effects of alternative water management actions for the Delta.

Our vision for the EFT (both SacEFT and DeltaEFT) is a cross-disciplinary trade-off evaluation tool which builds on this past work, incorporating quantitative and qualitative functional relationships between water operations, water quantity and quality, and focal species’ habitats / biological responses. The combined EFT will stimulate trade-off evaluations in water management forums in both the Sacramento Basin and the Delta, thus promoting ecological water operations planning that spans the two regions.

Please join us for a 1-day technical review workshop in Sacramento, Wednesday, January, 30, 2013. The purpose of this technical review workshop will be to demonstrate how the DeltaEFT works and solicit feedback from you on the tool’s scientific and technical aspects.

In early December I will send out a detailed agenda, information on the workshop location in Sacramento, and goals of the technical review workshop. At that time I will also ask you to RSVP, until then, please consider joining us on January 30, 2013.